

11/3/04

REMARKS

Claims 17-22 are pending in the present application. In the office action mailed June 25, 2004 (the "Office Action"), the drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a). Claims 17 and 19 were also objected to in the Office Action based on informalities. Claims 20-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 17-22 were further provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 23-28 of co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 10/176,852.

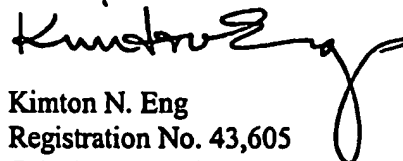
The specification and drawings have been amended to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. No new matter has been added by the amendments. Claims 17 and 19 were amended to overcome the Examiner's objections, and claims 20-22 were amended to overcome the Examiner's rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Therefore, the objection to claims 17 and 19 based on informalities, and the rejection of claims 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, should be withdrawn.

With respect to the provisional rejection of claims 17-22 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting, a timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c) has been provided with this amendment. Consequently, the provisional rejection of claims 17-22 for obviousness-type double patenting should be withdrawn.

All of the claims pending in the present application are in condition for allowance.  
Favorable consideration and a timely Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures:

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